

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, LI
SUBJECT: JANUARY 13 AGE EDITORIAL AND ARTICLE ON THE PROGRESSIVE
ALLIANCE OF LIBERIA (PAL)

REF: MONROVIA 0155

1. THE LIBERIAN AGE, THE TRUE WHIG PARTY NEWSPAPER,
REPORTED JANUARY 13 IN A PAGE ON ARTICLE THAT THE
PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE OF LIBERIA (PAL) INTENDS TO FORM A
NEW POLITICAL PARTY AIMED AT TRANSFORMING LIBERIAN INTO
A "SOCIALIST STATE". THE ARTICLE QUOTED FROM AN EXCLUSIVE
AGE INTERVIEW WITH PAL SECRETARY-GENERAL GABRIEL BACCHUS
MATTHEWS. ACCORDING TO THE AGE, MATTHEWS STATED THAT
PAL IS "AN OUTGROWTH OF THE RISING POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS
AMONG THE LIBERIANS IN THE UNITED STATES", THAT PAL
"BELIEVES IN AFRICAN SOCIALISM WHICH ACCOMMODATES ITSELF
AND ADAPTS ITSELF TO OUR TRADITIONAL SETTING, INFLUENCED
BY A COMMUNALISTIC LIFE STYLE", AND THAT PAL'S EVENTUAL
OBJECTIVES INCLUDE "THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF EDUCATION,
THE SOCIALIZATION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND EVEN RE-
DISTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL WEALTH AND INCOME ON THE BASIS
OF EACH ACCORDING TO THIS NEEDS AND FROM EACH ACCORDING
TO HIS ABILITY".

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2. MATTHEWS REPORTEDLY ALSO DENIED RUMORS THAT
PAL RECEIVES FOREIGN SUPPORT FOR ITS MOVEMENT. HE SPOKE
OF THE IDENTITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN PRESIDENT
TOLBERT AND PAL WITH RESPECT TO THE MAINTENANCE OF LAW
AND OF ORDERLY GOVERNMENT BUT SAID THAT THERE WERE
IRRECONCILABLE DIFFERENCES ON THE ISSUES OF ECONOMIC

SYSTEM AND POLICIES. IN COMMENTINGHON THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN LIBERIA OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS, MATTHEWS IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, " SAW 10TH STREET ON WHICH WILLIE TOLBERT HAS A HOME AND WHICH HAPPENS TO BE PAVED AND I SAW SLIPWAY (A MONROVIA SLUM AREA) ON WHICH WILLIE TOLBERT DOESN'T HAVE A HOME AND WHICH HAPPENS NOT TO BE PAVED..." MATTHEWS ALSO TOLD THE AGE THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT OF TREMENDOUS PUBLIC SUPPORT AND HE NOTED THAT CADRES WERE BEING TRAINED WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY TO AID IN THE PLANNED NON-VIOLENT REVOLUTION.

3. THE AGE RESPONDED TO MATTHEWS IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "BEWARE OF TINKLING SYMBOLS" (SIC) WHICH BEGINS: "NEWS THAT A GROUP OF LIBERIAN RESIDENT IN NEW YORK IS SEEKING TO RETURN HOME AND FORM AN OPPOSITION PARTY SHOULD ALARM NO ONE AT ALL; HOWEVER, WHAT IS ALARMING, SEEMS TO BE...THEIR LACK OFKNOWLEDGE ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY..." THE EDITORIAL CRITICIZES THE VAGUENESS OF PAL'S PLANS AND CALLS FOR "THESE FLEDGLINGS (TO SHOW THEIR GOOD FAITH BY FIRST ABANDONPFG THS PRIVILEGE (SIC) SANCTRARY PROVIDED THEM IN CAPITALIST NEW YORK, (TO) COME HOME..." AND "TO GET THEMSELVES INVOLVED IN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES... AND DEMONSTRATE TO THE NATION WHAT THEY HAVE TO OFFER BESIDES VOCAL TINKLING SYMBOLS..." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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THE COMMENT THAT "FOR US IN LIBERIA, WE KNOW THAT SOCIALISM IN NOT THE ANSWER TO OUR PROBLEMS BECAUSE MANY HAVE FLED THEIR SOCIALIST PARADISE TO DRINK AND NURTURE AT OUR FOUNTAIN OF HUMANISTIC CAPITALISM; THUS... THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY WILL REJECT THOSE FLEDGLINGS AND CONTINUE THE MARCH TO PROGRESS."

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